

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 23, 1865.

Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**AN ACT**

In reference to prosecutions for libel in the District of Columbia.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That in all prosecutions or indictments for libel instituted, or  
4       which may hereafter be instituted, in the District of Colum-  
5       bia, the truth thereof may be given in evidence under the  
6       general issue as a justification of the alleged libel; and if it  
7       appear that the matter charged as libelous was true, and was  
8       written or published with good motives, and for justifiable  
9       ends, the defendant shall be acquitted.

Passed the House of Representatives January 20, 1865.

Attest:                      EDWARD McPHERSON, *Clerk.*